

As the nation prepares to celebrate Independence Day, Guard soldiers continue to serve the nation at home and abroad.

The National Guard

Story by Renee McElveen

HEN Americans celebrate Independence Day this year, they'll have a renewed sense of appreciation for the real meaning of freedom in this country, said LTG Roger C. Schultz, director of the Army National Guard.

The events of Sept. 11 opened our eyes to the fact that freedom comes at a price, he said. And it all begins with individuals willing to serve their country.

As the nation prepares to celebrate the 226th anniversary of its independence, Schultz drew several parallels between the Army National Guard's Minuteman soldier of the Revolutionary War period and the soldier of the 21st century.

The desire to serve — whether it be in the uniformed services or in an organization that helps citizens through

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volunteerism — has been an integral part of life in America for generations, Schultz said.

"Today, some people still set aside their lives for service to others," he said. "They put the interests of others ahead of their own. They still volunteer."

And a soldier's loyalties remain the same: loyalty to the nation, to the Army and to fellow soldiers, Schultz said.

He's especially proud of the team of Army National Guard soldiers, and the families and employers who so unselfishly continue to support them. Because of their support, accomplishing the Army's mission is possible, he said.

"Our soldiers are on duty around the world," he added. "They're on the team that's making a difference."

As of April 2002, 32,374 of the Army National Guard's 350,944

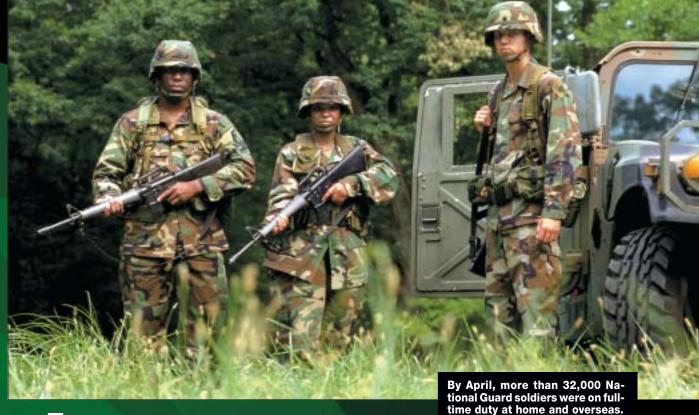
soldiers were serving the country full time, at home and abroad. Today, the percentage of mobilized Guard soldiers serving the nation ranges from a low of one percent to a high of 18 percent in Maryland, Schultz said.

Maryland is one of five states that have units in the 29th Infantry Division, which returned to the United States in April after a six-month



Guard soldiers are serving the nation in a variety of roles, including as members of deployed peacekeeping forces.

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Update

deployment to Bosnia, Schultz said. The 29th Div. also has units in Virginia, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Nearly 650 Guard soldiers from Indiana, Montana, Idaho, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Hawaii are serving under the Active Component Army Headquarters element of the 25th Inf. Div., which is on duty in Bosnia. The Pennsylvania Army Guard's 28th Inf. Div. will succeed the 25th in Bosnia, Schultz said.

Soldiers from the 28th Div. will be activated into federal service in late July, and will train in the United States and Germany before deploying to Bosnia, he said. Near the end of 2002, the division will command the Multinational Division-North, headquartered at Eagle Base, outside Tuzla. It will complete its six-month rotation in 2003.

"Our soldiers feel good about what

they're doing," Schultz said. "They understand that they're making a contribution and a difference."

Helping others is just one reason people choose to serve in the Army Guard, Schultz said. Duty in the Guard offers men and women the opportunity to be part of a first-class team as they serve their country. In addition, soldiers learn many personal skills that apply to duty both in and out of uniform. They learn about themselves and, more importantly, how to lead others, he said.

Guard soldiers enjoy higher pay as they advance through the ranks, as well as incentives and benefits that include re-enlistment bonuses, tuition assistance and student-loan repayment.

Schultz said Guard units were well trained and prepared when they responded to the events of Sept. 11. Guard soldiers from New York and Pennsylvania arrived at the terrorist-

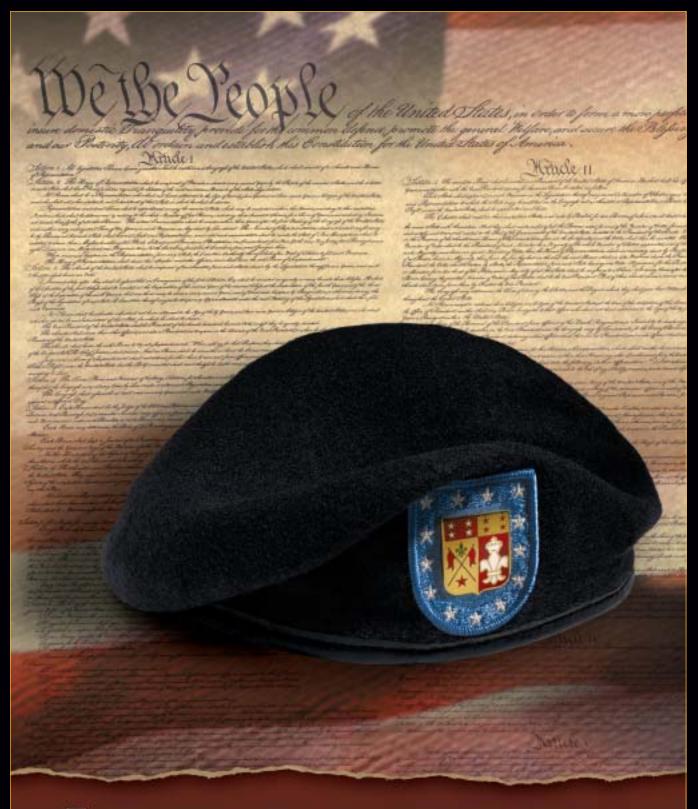
attack sites within hours of the attacks, while Maryland troops were on duty at the Pentagon by dawn on Sept. 12.

The Guard soldiers live and work in the communities in which they serve, Schultz added. As the Guard continues to perform homeland-security missions, the presence of its soldiers in communities across the nation becomes increasingly more important.

As a community-based force, the Guard remains ready to protect American citizens, Schultz said. But the war on terrorism isn't confined to terrorists in our country; it's a global war waged against terrorists in other countries as well, and the Guard is engaged on both counts.

To prepare for its next generation of missions, Schultz said, the organization has to be willing to change. "It has to be willing to transform, and we are," he said. □

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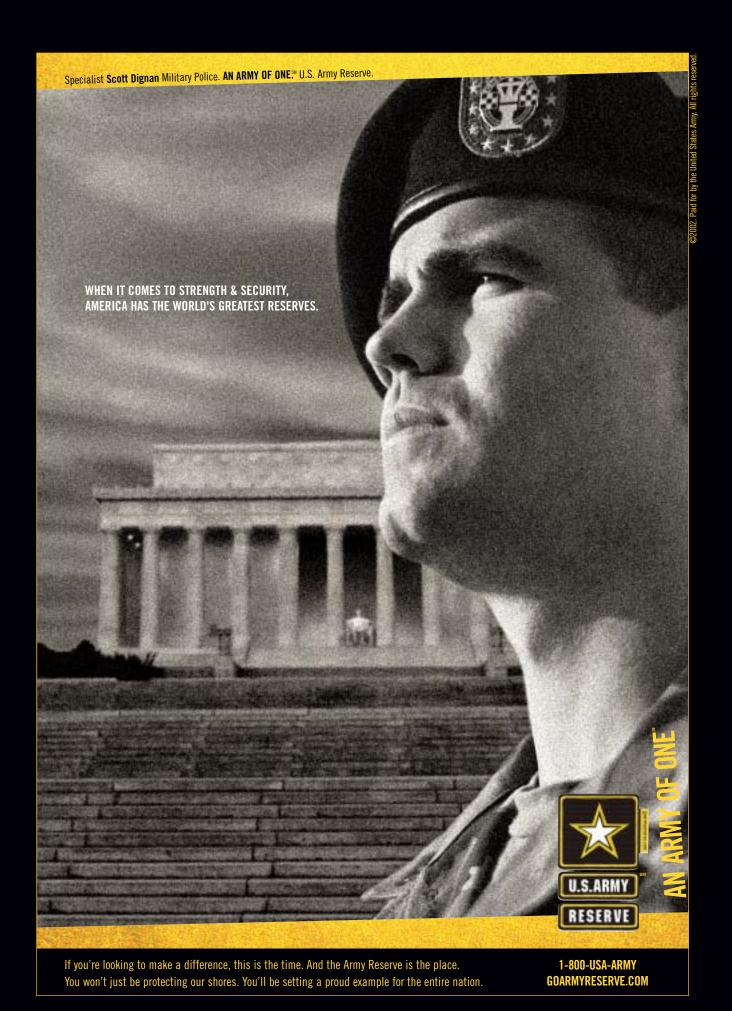
The transformation continues. For over 365 years the Army National Guard has been proven in war, proud in peace. And now we are prepared for the 21st century. Once you've earned the title of "American soldier," you will be part of something greater than yourself—part of an elite team—America's Army. You will embody values as timeless as our nation: loyalty, duty,

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Some 470
Army Reserve
units and about
15,000 Army
Reservists are
supporting ongoing
operations
around the
globe.

The Reserve's Conti

Story by LTC Randy Pullen and CPT Rebecca P. Leggieri

TG Thomas J. Plewes stepped down as chief of the Army Reserve in May 2002, ending a 36-year career of active and Reserve service. Before he retired he was interviewed for an update on the Reserve's response in the global war against terrorism.

The effective response of the Army Reserve in the war on terrorism can be attributed to the readiness, experience and dedication of Army Reservists, Plewes said.

"The attention that we paid to improving our readiness over the last decade has paid great dividends," he added. "When we've mobilized organizations, we've been able to ensure that the maximum number of soldiers are ready and available."

Seven months after the Sept. 11 attacks, some 470 Army Reserve units

LTC Randy Pullen and CPT Rebecca P. Leggieri work in the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve.

and about 15,000 Army Reservists were supporting ongoing operations around the globe.

Among the soldiers was a large contingent of military police, for force protection both in the United States and overseas, Plewes said. Another large group came from militaryintelligence units and such organizations as mortuary affairs and biological detection. Other Reservists were pulled from civil and public affairs, psychological operations, transportation and headquarters-augmentation units.

Today, Army Reservists are on the ground in Afghanistan, supporting combat operations and helping the Afghans rebuild their country after decades of war, Plewes said.

Earlier, an Army Reserve unit deployed to Germany to help prepare for airdrop operations that brought food, supplies and medical equipment to Afghanistan. Reserve MPs are safeguarding installations in the United States and guarding detainees at Camp X-ray, in Cuba. And soldiers with expertise in nuclear, chemical and biological



Like many Army Reservists, Dr. (LTC) Juan DeRojas (right) volunteered for active duty after the Sept. 11 attacks.

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nuing Commitment

weapons are providing early detection capabilities against biological attack for soldiers and civilians alike.

"Everywhere our citizen-soldiers have served and continue to serve, they do so professionally and with great distinction," Plewes said. "GEN Tommy R. Franks, the commander-inchief of U.S. Central Command, said recently the Reservists supporting his operations 'come trained and ready to do the work.'

"This is a different kind of call-up, in terms of units," Plewes said, comparing the war on terrorism to the Persian Gulf War in which the reserve component played a major role.

The other major difference was in the acceleration of the mobilization process, he said. Units were needed so quickly in the aftermath of Sept. 11 that some were called up and deployed before they were mobilized. Others conducted hasty mobilizations, with timelines much shorter than any previously used.

Plewes said the Reserve's high level of readiness, its experience in mobilization and deployment, and its soldiers' dedication all contributed to its ability to meet the nation's needs during the war on terrorism at home and abroad.

As an example of the Reserve's experience, Plewes cited civil-affairs units, which have been "involved in everything we've done since Desert Storm, from Somalia to East Timor, and Kosovo and Bosnia in between. The role they are playing in Afghanistan is a very critical one, but it's one we have just come to take naturally.

"The more than 100 civil-affairs soldiers we have on duty in Afghanistan right now have been battle-hardened, from experiences in those previous operations, Plewes said.

Plewes anticipated a continuing

need for the reserve component in America's war on terrorism.

As is true for everything else that the Army is involved in, the new war involves the National Guard and Army Reserve as well, he said.

"The Army is too small to accomplish all the missions it's tasked with. And the Guard and Reserve have much-needed capabilities — because their soldiers possess both civilian skills and military training — that are absolutely necessary in the war on terrorism.

"We'll be involved in a very major way in homeland defense, and in carrying the war on terrorism to the terrorists, wherever they are," Plewes said.

The Army Reserve's challenge now is to continue to develop its soldiers' capabilities by honing the skills they'll need in supporting the active Army in future contingencies, Plewes said. □

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